

the RARS

# Exciter

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society



Worldwide Friendship

August, 2001  
Number 370



Field Day and Roster Issue!

## *The Exciter*

The **Exciter** is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the prior month. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the Exciter are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

## *The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society*

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are \$9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site ([www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org)).

## *Officers*

<b>President</b>	<b>Tim Nicholson KF4RTX</b> 501-7746 <a href="mailto:kf4rtx@arri.net">kf4rtx@arri.net</a>
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## *Info*

### Repeaters:

145.13  
146.64  
224.64  
444.525 (88.5 PL)

### Web Site:

<http://www.rars.org>

## *President's Corner*

**Tim Nicholson KF4RTX**



Before I get started, on behalf of the entire RARS organization, I would like to offer sincerest condolences to Alan Pitegoff AB4OZ on the death of his wife, Lynn KO4QH. Your kind words following her death are a testament to just how special Lynn was. Her wonderful smile, cheerful personality and giving spirit will be sorely missed.

I hope everyone had a wonderful Field Day. I know I did, and I learned a few lessons along the way, too. I already have several ideas for next year that I'm excited about trying. I'm going to be waiting anxiously to see just how well we did. The 20-meter phone station ran about an average score from what I could tell. Thanks to everyone who helped with 20-meters, especially Kevin W4KJD, Mike WA4MGP, Paul N1LK, and all the others who provided equipment and help with running the station.

Every Field Day brings about tales of problems and amazing solutions. This year was no exception for me. I started out with the problem of inexperience. I had never been a band captain before, so I wasn't sure what to do. Thanks to some advice from Mike WA4BPJ, I was able to get started. The next challenge was finding folks to help. After several emails pleading for help, enough people volunteered to actually operate the station without one person staying the entire 24 hours. With volunteers came equipment. I secured a screen room from Gary, KN4AQ, and finally, I had everything I needed. The final challenge came with the rain on Saturday night. Our main laptop took on a little water apparently, which caused a malfunction. Fortunately, we had planned to have backups to all the important stuff (thanks, James, for the backup laptop!), so we were back up and running before long. All in all, it was a wonderful, fun, and great!

As most of you may already know, we have a new manager of our web pages. Joe Zobkiw, WA2UZO, has graciously taken on the task. We won't call him webmaster, since he doesn't prefer that title. I'll just call him web dude. Anyway, the website has already taken on a great new look. Joe is going to do a wonderful job maintaining our site. I am excited to see what he comes up with in the coming months. If you get a chance, go by our website (<http://www.rars.org>) and take a look at Joe's handiwork. Thanks Joe!

73!

Tim Nicholson KF4RTX

**Note: This will be  
the last copy of the  
Exciter you'll  
receive if you haven't  
renewed your  
membership!**



# Lynn Pitegoff KO4QH, SK

It's our sad duty to report that Lynn Pitegoff KO4QH died early Tuesday morning, June 19, 2001. Dozens of RARS members, friends and family attended a memorial service on Friday, June 22 at the Brown-Wynne funeral home on Millbrook Ave. Lynn, wife of Alan AB4OZ, was well known to most RARS members for more than a decade.



Lynn KO4QH at a School Demonstration...

As Education Director, she helped guide dozens of potential hams toward their coveted first Amateur Radio license, and coordinated Amateur Radio presentations at schools and museums throughout the area. As a Volunteer Examiner, Lynn was there as her new hams-to-be took that dreaded first exam, and as the rest of us upgraded to the next level. And as "lead Crystal" she focused the energy of RARS' YLs and helped women find a place in our male-dominated hobby. The Crystal's dinner meetings have evolved into the RARS Dinner, held on the 4th Tuesday. And of course Lynn was a fixture at every hamfest for hundreds of miles around, making sure that Alan didn't bring back too much more than he sold. Outside RARS, Lynn had extra volunteer energy to help out at area museums and a reading service for the blind, and was a member of the Raleigh Aquarium Society.

Lynn gave extra attention to people with special needs and handicaps. Three years ago she ran a special ham license class for blind students, and several of the students became licensed. At VE test sessions she was always there to help anyone who needed special assistance taking an exam. And although Lynn did suffer from her own chronic health problems, her death was unexpected.

Anyone wishing to leave a memorial is requested to make a donation to the American Heart Association (their minimum requested donation is \$15).

American Heart Association  
PO Box 5216  
Glen Allen, VA 23058  
<http://www.americanheart.org/>

## Interested in APRS® Software for Microsoft Windows®? Already Have Street Atlas®? Have You Ever Seen so Many®s?

From Vince KF4ZMV:

We're going to put together a club order for APRS+SA. Single pricing is \$49, club price is \$30 -- a \$19 savings. . We'll probably put the order in about four weeks after the Exciter goes out. People can contact Bob Breyer at [breyer@ix.netcom.com](mailto:breyer@ix.netcom.com) to get in on the order.

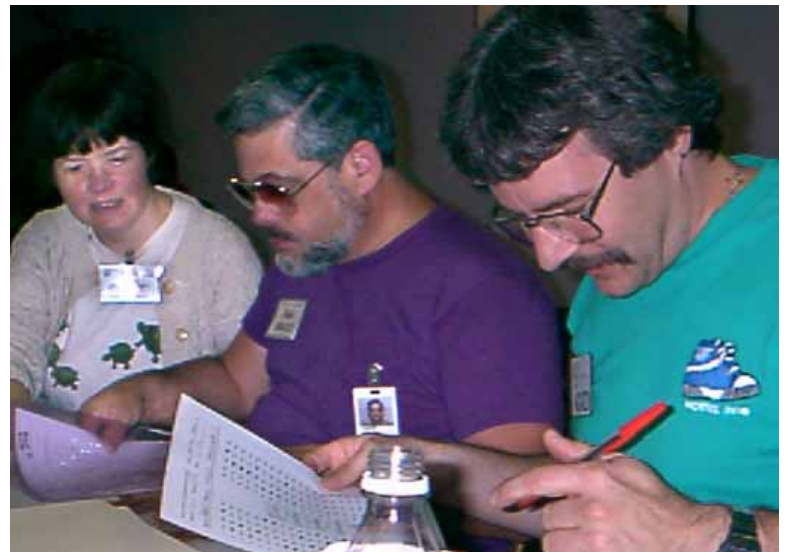
*[Associate Editors Note: APRS+SA is APRS software that interacts with Street Atlas for MS Windows, which provides arguably the best maps available. APRS+SA requires that you already have Street Atlas, and is one of the recommended pieces of APRS software for this operating system.*

*Please read the website below for more info before registering.]*

<http://www.tapr.org/~kh2z/aprsplus/>



LYNN PITEGOFF KO4QH 1947~2001



...checking VE tests with Alan and Jeff AC4ZO...



..... talking to KB4RZ at the Kinston Hamfest..

# RARS Field Day 2001 - the Carroll Site

**Mike Murphy WA4BPJ**

RARS Field Day 2001 was an awesome event. Operations this year were at two sites, one in downtown Raleigh on the grounds of the State Capitol (see page 10), the other at last years site, the Carroll property in southern Wake county. Copious rainfall didn't dampen enthusiasm as 9 stations took to the air from the Carroll site and 2 from downtown Raleigh. The Carroll site saw several noteworthy highlights including 42 participants, 5 of whom were not hams, 3 new band captains, 165 digital contacts and a possible all-time RARS record for contacts by a single station. Success at this level is the result of a ton of hard work by lots of folks. I want to thank the Carrolls for once again hosting RARS at their property. For a large operation there is no finer site. Jim N4CAE and Beth KF4QMR put many hours into preparing the fields and helping with set up and tear down. Jim, with his tractor, rescued the 40 meter CW camper and truck after it slid off the rain soaked path from the 40 meter CW field

Thanks to the many operators and volunteers who set up 9 stations, kept them on the air for 24 hours and then took it all down. Special thanks to the nine band captains who organized and coordinated these efforts:

Chuck N1KGY	80CW
Paul N4YGU - new band captain	80 PH
Neal N4HAF	40CW
Sharon KD4ACK - record contact total	40PH
Steve WA5FRF - new band captain	20CW
Tim KF4RTX - new and captain	20PH
Chuck K4HF and Greg W4IK	15 & 10
Dave K4SANand his son Joshua KF4ZXK	VHF



*No, it's not a tractor pulling contest!. That's Jim, N4CAE with his tractor, rescuing Charlie's 40CW truck and camper. That's Dale, W4AUV under the front of Charlie's truck, hooking up the chains. Photo by Bob Conder, K4RLC..*

We were able to take advantage of several of the bonus point categories. Thanks to Steve, WA5FRF for copying the W1AW field day message, the various band captains for 800 emergency power bonus points because of the generators, to John, KG4HDT, for arranging the site visit by Al Sadowski, AH6LS, of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol, to Karl, K4LNX for

setting up two demonstrations in the unusual modes category. Karl demonstrated APRS and a portable packet system for 200 points. Thanks to Gary, KN4AQ, for yet another excellent press release.

Special recognition is due Terri Ayers, XYL of Chuck, N1KGY. We didn't think there'd be a Saturday evening meal but thanks to Terri's last minute effort, we were all surprised by a fine barbecue meal with all the fixn's. As one of the operators at the controls that evening, I can tell you that meal was delicious and most welcome. It would have been Beane Weenees for me later if Terri hadn't saved the day. Thanks Terri!

## A Letter of Thanks

*Dear Friends,*

*Once again, I would like to express my gratitude to all that helped with the Tour de Cure this past May. As the coordinator of the event I know that there is no way for me to manage an event like the Tour without the time and dedication of HAM radio operators. As with any event, there are always some unexpected challenges. All of the ones that we faced were handled quickly and professionally and I thank you for that. As you know, with an event like this, the more folks we can have out as our eyes the better and I never once felt that our support crew was understaffed.*

*I also thank everyone for their willingness to pitch in wherever they were needed. As the wind wore down more and more cyclists throughout the day on Sunday, it became more and more important for us to transport them safely across and through some hazards. Thank you to all who gave selflessly throughout both days. This was a first time event and I believe that everyone left with a positive experience. A lot of that can be attributed to the volunteers we had throughout the weekend. Thank you once again for a job well done and hopefully I will see you all next year!*

*Sincerely,*

*Jeb Brookshire*

*Tour Coordinator*

**continued on page 5**

## PUBLIC SERVICE CALENDAR

For details visit [www.rars.org/public-service](http://www.rars.org/public-service)  
or call Bill KG4CXY at 469-0785

**MS-150 Bike Tour**  
September 8th-9th  
Contact: To Be Determined

**Familias Del Pueblo Road Race**  
September 9th  
Contact: Ralph Embrey KF4NIR  
[kf4nir@aol.com](mailto:kf4nir@aol.com)

**Light the Night Walk**  
September 20th  
Contact: Karl Ulrich K4LNX  
[k4lnx@arrl.net](mailto:k4lnx@arrl.net)

**Duke Liver Center Triathlon**  
September 30th  
Contact: Jim Walter KG4FIJ  
[jwalter@nc.rr.com](mailto:jwalter@nc.rr.com)

**American Red Cross - NC State Fair**  
October 12th-21st  
Contact: John Guerriero KG4HDT  
[kg4hdt@arrl.net](mailto:kg4hdt@arrl.net)



## continued from page 4

So how did we do? As in many past field days, we operated 8A. We made a total of 3,627 contacts and 10,828 points! The breakdown is:

<b>BAND</b>	<b>QSOs</b>	<b>Points</b>
80CW	65	260
80PH	197	394
40CW	812	3248
40PH	1098	2196
20CW	73	292
20DIG	165	660
20PH	810	1620
15CW	22	88
15PH	168	336
10PH	126	252
6PH	87	174
2PH	4	8

### Bonus Points

Emergency Pwr	800
Site Visit	100
Press Release	100
Unusual Modes Demo	200
Copy ARRL field day message	100

**Total Points** 10,828

Some 8A history:

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	Entries
2000	12510 (RARS)	11730	7510	14
1999	11170	9772	9650	15
1998	13802 (RARS)	10658	6934	14
1997	12096 (RARS)	11372	7370	7

So based on the past 4 years, we're a probable 3d, 50-50 for 2nd and not a likely 1st in perhaps 15 entries. All in all, another first class effort and plenty of fun for all. I'm looking forward to next year!

73,

Mike, WA4BPJ



The unusual modes demonstration by Karl, K4LNX. His demonstration of APRS and a stand alone packet network added 200 points to our total. Photo by Bruce Buck, KC4UQN.



15 meters - getting it done. Photo by Bruce Buck, KC4UQN



Dave, K4SAN, and his son Joshua, KF4ZXX, rack 'em up on VHF.



Some of the 10 meter gang



Kathy, KB5KYY working 20 meter PSK3.



Dale, W4AUV and Bob, K4RLC pounding the brass/keyboard on 40 meter CW. Photo by Bruce Buck, KC4UQN



20 meter Phone. A little water in the laptop didn't shut 'em down. Open it up, dry it and press on!



Joe, KE4DRJ and Sharon, KD4ACK adding to a record total on 40 phone. The radio rat works again! Photo by Bruce Buck, KC4UQN.



Paul, N4YGU keeping the log at the 80 meter phone station. Photo by Bruce Buck, KC4UQN



Chuck N1KGY and the 80 meter CW station.

## ***August 2001 RARS Membership Roster***

**The RARS Board requires that the Roster be deleted from the Exciter file archived on the RARS web site, to protect the membership list from commercial use and junk mail. I've left the blank pages in place to preserve the Acrobat page numbering.**

**KN4AQ**

*Note: If your membership has expired, please contact Greg Seamster KE4PAX to renew: [ke4pax@arrl.net](mailto:ke4pax@arrl.net) or, renew at the next meeting!*

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KN4AQ

# A Capitol Idea?

**Gary Pearce KN4AQ**



*The Tri-Bander Beam at the Capitol*

Jeff AC4ZO, Dick KD4ISF and I made final plans. We would be 2A, setting up Jeff's beam and a dipole, in two screen rooms. We'd take help from anybody we could get, but didn't want to dilute the main RARS operation in Apex. We were glad to see that new band captains stepped up to fill in for our missing stations. Apex would be 8A, proud and strong.

The only hitch came in a phone call with the facilities manager. We couldn't pound stakes into the ground, because water and power lines run under the sod. He recommended using drums filled with water as hold-downs. So we practiced on my front lawn. We set up Jeff's beam on a 20 foot ladder, with the guy ropes held down by large trash cans full of water. Darned if it didn't work! But when we met the facilities guy for the site survey and showed him the stakes we'd use, he approved them. Well, we had fun testing.



*The Author and Cyndi KD4ACW on 20 phone  
(by Jeff AC4ZO)*

night. Jeff operated a lot of 20 cw, while Dick and I roamed the other bands on phone. 80 meters overnight proved the most productive, with run rates holding around 100 for a couple hours.

But we were not there to seriously contest. This was a "showcase" operation. And in that vein we did OK. We got on TV news on channels 11 and 17 (channel 5

The idea for a Capitol Field Day took form during the winter, when all good Field Day ideas are born. A flurry of messages on the RARS-L indicated that some people were interested in the idea of a more public event, though there was hardly consensus on where it should be (or even if it should be on Field Day). But the Capitol appealed to me most, so I dropped an e-mail to the facilities people in Raleigh. Their first reply: we've got a lot of OTHER places you might want to consider.

I filled out an application for the Capitol anyway, and fired most of the big guns (we help NCEM, SKYWARN, all the Public Service, emergency preparation, etc...) and prepared to have to argue before the Supreme Court. At the June meeting, K4HF handed me an envelope from the State. Our application was approved. I guess that Public Service Stuff means something after all.



*Paul KG4HJC and his APRS Demo*

Field Day weekend went off beautifully. We had plenty of help setting up and operating into Saturday evening. Things got a little thin overnight, but Karl K4LNX and Israel N4ZVU were troopers, helping Jeff, Dick and I keep things going most of the



*Hank K4HM and Jeff AC4ZO*



*Johnny WA9SZL Talks Up Amateur Radio  
with a visitor*

covered Franklin County, I believe). We didn't get in the N&O, which was a disappointment. And we didn't get any elected officials, though the Lt. Governor's media director came by for a while.



*Dick KD4ISC and an unknown Operator on Phone*

We did get a lot of 'general public' wandering by. Our tri-band beam made us quite conspicuous. There's a fair amount of pedestrian traffic around the Capitol, and people would walk slowly by, craning their necks to look at the beam. If they didn't come up to us, we'd approach them and say "I can tell you're wondering what's going on here..." They were.

Operators showed up again Sunday morning, and we stayed on the air until the 2 p.m. close of the contest. Once again, we had plenty of help at tear-down, and we were gone by 4 p.m. Thanks to everyone who helped!

Toting up the contacts and bonus points, Jeff estimates that we'll have a respectable 3500 points, which



should put us in the top 25% of the highly competitive 2A Class. That's icing on the cake. The event was a success before we made the first contact. We'll wait until it's nice and cool again, next winter, before making promises about a repeat in 02, but it looks worthwhile.



*The whole Downtown Field Day Site, shot from Balcony of Capitol*



*The Author on his Television Interview*



## Minutes

### Club Meeting, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2001

The regular meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was held on July 3, 2001 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church on Clark Avenue.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32p by President Tim Nicholson, KF4RTX who welcomed 64 members and 2 guests.

Greg, KE4PAX gave the treasurer's report. He said that our membership stands at 338, with 210 renewed.

Gary, KN4AQ, announced that we will not run a RARS Summer class this year. We expect that February 2002 will be the next class.

Several people brought pictures from Field Day. They were on display for all to see.

John, KG4HDT, described some recent ARES activities. Especially, the drill on June 30 was successful.

Mike, WA4BPJ, announced the results of the W4DW Field Day effort. He reported that there were three new band captains and said that made 3627 contacts, and are claiming 10,828 points.

Bob, K1RCB, said a few words about the MS-150 bicycle tour scheduled in September. He is currently signing up volunteers for communications.

Alan, AB4OZ, listed the upcoming hamfests in the area.

At 7:53p, Tim introduced the program for the evening: Home Movies from ARRL Headquar-

ters, at Newington, CT. Presented by Gary, KN4AQ.

Door prizes were awarded to: KE4PAX, K4PSP, and KD4ZVW.

The meeting adjourned at 8:46p.

Jeff Wittich, AC4ZO

Secretary

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## Snapshots

*The Cary Hamfest was blessed with unbelievably good weather this year, and attendance seemed up. All the inside flea-market tables were sold, and the outside flea market area was full, too.*



*John Aceti N1GMV chose to set up outside in the sunshine. John reports that he sold almost everything he brought.*



*Bernard Blackmon W4BRB reported brisk sales inside as well.*

## Hamfest Calendar

**August 11:** Fayetteville  
**Sept 1:** Shelby  
**Sept 22-23:** Virginia Beach  
**October 6:** Rock Hill, SC  
**Nov 18:** JARSfest, Benson

Courtesy of the SERA Repeater



## On the Cover...

*Cathy KA3QPU and Don Downs WA4AVU taking some of the night shift at the State Capitol Field Day site. Thanks to Gary KN4AQ for this great cover!*